



SPIRITUAL FRONTIERS FELLOWSHIP

Newsletter

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WASHINGTON, D. C. CHAPTER



The Rev. Theodore Swager

Under the new leadership of the Rev. Theodore Swager, Washington, D. C., Maryland, Virginia area SFF'ers have been extremely active.

Interest in SFF has mushroomed since last fall when about 80 members attended a Sunday afternoon retreat near Waldorf. More recently the membership has increased from 160 to 325. Study and Development groups have been organized in Springfield, Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria, Va., three in the District of Columbia, two in Beltsville, one in Hagerstown and two in Waldorf, Md. Otto Kundert, well-known over the nation for his contributions to both the Inner Peace Movement and SFF, recently spoke to both Beltsville groups.

Members in other locations who also face the problem of burgeoning membership may be interested to know how the initiative of an interested individual has been utilized to form new groups. After the Reverend Swager has been notified of new members in his area a letter of welcome and a questionnaire is sent to each new person. The questionnaire asks the

new member to list his interests and whether or not he wishes to have his name, address and telephone number included on the "D.C. Area Chapter Member List." If he desires to be included on this list the list then is mailed to him so that he can know immediately the names of other interested persons in his own neighborhood. This list is available only to those members who wish to be listed. At present the demand for leadership has far outdistanced the supply. For this reason individual members are taking turns acting as leaders and volunteering to lead newly formed groups.

An SFF area meeting is held monthly. Because this district is so "wide-flung" they now plan to rotate meetings from a Virginia suburban church, to a Maryland church, to a District church.

In addition to being pastor of the Calvary United Methodist Church in Waldorf, Md., and Area Chairman for SFF Ted also conducts a healing service on the third Sunday of each month at his own church, Calvary. Attendance at this service is growing rapidly and Ted has gained a wide reputation both as a healer and a trance medium. He also finds time to do extensive work with young people interested in psychic matters.

People from all over the nation are journeying to Waldorf for sittings with Ted. Recently he had the pleasure of giving an appointment for a sitting to Mr. Sun Myung Moon, of Korea, who was mentioned in Arthur Ford's book, Unknown But Known. Although Mr. Moon was unable to attend at the last minute much information came to his proxy for him.

--Audre L. Rhoads

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THE CLEVELAND CHAPTER will entertain Olga and Ambrose Worrall (former Clevelanders, so this is a homecoming!) on June 23 at the Old Stone Church on the Public Square. They will speak on "The Gift of Healing" and psychic pictures will be shown as part of the program. Following the lecture the guest speakers will lead a panel discussion. --Walter Ermer

THE CANTON-AKRON CHAPTER expects the Rev. Arthur Ford to meet with SFF members only (members of the National organization) on May 19. The Reverend Ford has been attracting standing-room-only crowds in his recent appearances and no doubt will fill the hall on this occasion.

When the Rev. Arthur Ford addressed THE CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER he told us that mediums are on their way out and in the future each person will be on his own. This has caused an acceleration in our Study Group program and we are furnishing each Group Leader with taped instructions from Arthur Ford.

The nationally-known healers, Olga and Ambrose Worrall were our speakers on May 10. All of our members had been encouraged to read their book, The Gift of Healing, the better to appreciate the Worralls' lecture.

In March the Hudson Valley Council Ring of THE HUDSON VALLEY, NEW YORK CHAPTER appointed activity chairmen: Don Battey, Lectures and Public meetings; Peg Traver, Public Relations; Doris Hayes and Betty Davis, Study Groups; James Rush Research; and Jean Baker, Retreat. --Samuel P. Reinke

The Prayer Laboratory conducted March 17, 18 and 19 by Mrs. Joan Kimmel for THE SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA CHAPTER was an unqualified success and provided an unusual experience for everyone who attended. The total attendance was 67 persons, eight of whom were present for every session.

The SFF Monthly Newsletter lesson, "Clairvoyance," prepared by Mrs. Kimmel, was the topic of our April 14 meeting. We also discussed Dr. Marcus Bach's method of meditation which he details in an article, "Spiritual Understanding Through Meditation," originally published in Outreach, the Newsletter of his Foundation for Spiritual Understanding.

Mrs. Irene F. Hughes, the noted Chicago sensitive, discussed "Prophets, Past and Present" at an open meeting Friday, May 2. A more extended session with Mrs. Hughes has been planned for next fall.

THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER was deeply honored to have as speaker for our May meeting the Rev. Paul Lambourne Higgins, minister of the Richards Street Methodist Church in Joliet, Ill., a member of the Executive Committee of SFF, a founder and first president of our Fellowship. The Reverend Higgins, a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker on survival and all spiritual matters, is the author of several books, among them, John Wesley, Spiritual Witness. His latest book is Encountering the Unseen.

Some 60 persons attended the March 31 meeting at which a steering committee of seven members was elected: The Rev. Alan MacKillop, Chairman of the committee and also program chairman; Mrs. Marjorie Grant, study group chairman; Mrs. Rosalind McKnight, records chairman and secretary; Miss Janet Casper, finance chairman and treasurer; Mrs. Betty Taylor, publicity chairman; Sam Walter, membership chairman; and the Rev. James E. Kinnear, member-at-large.

The Rev. Arthur Ford addressed our chapter on April 21 and we have 57 new members as a direct result of that meeting and Sam Walter's offices as membership chairman.

Several study groups have begun meeting and the Rev. Martha K. Seidler plans to conduct classes for beginners in Study Groups. These will be four-week sessions for persons who never have participated in this activity and wish to learn how Study Groups are conducted.

The New York Chapter also plans to sponsor a formal summer program of weekend meetings. Tentative theme titles are "Psychic Camp" to include sittings, demonstrations and classes--Arthur Ford has promised to be on hand for this one; "Healing and Meditation" and "Dream Analysis." Betty Taylor is in charge of the summer program and interested persons may write her for more information: Betty Taylor, Penthouse, 38 West 31st Street, New York, N.Y. 10001. The dates for the summer program are not yet firm.

Harris D. Erickson, Chairman of the Committee on the Mid-Week Service for the First Baptist Church in EVANSVILLE, INDIANA and member of SFF, has written most enthusiastically about Mrs. Joan Kimmel's visit there during the last week of April.

Mr. Erickson reports that about 60 persons picked up SFF membership application blanks during the week's meetings and says it would appear that a local chapter of SFF can probably be organized early in this coming autumn.

AREA CHAPTER NEWS

Addressing our April meeting of THE DETROIT, MICHIGAN CHAPTER, Miss Mabel Humphrey talked of her experiences with Mr. Sun Myung Moon of Korea. She had frequent opportunities to talk with him during her recent stay in Washington.

Mr. Moon started "The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity" and has been called a modern-day John the Baptist. Arthur Ford devotes two chapters of his new book, The Unknown But Known, to this interesting man.

A teacher for 12 years, Miss Humphrey holds a Master's degree from the University of Michigan. She is a former Area Chairman of the Detroit SFF and has been working in the field of psychic phenomena for more than 25 years.

Our March meeting attracted 85 persons to hear Dr. Alex Holmes and witness healing sessions at the Highland Park Congregational Church. Dr. Holmes pioneered the healing ministry of the church in the British Isles--not faith healing but spiritual healing. He also has ministered in Europe, South Africa, Australia, Japan and China and reported that churches that never had healing sessions in the past now are turning to this form of help.

Study groups open for new members are Wyandotte (The Rev. Claire Wolfe), Ferndale (Mrs. Bert Colon), and Dearborn (Mrs. Dorothy Adams).

The Rev. Arthur Ford was an outstanding success at the March 21 meeting of THE ATLANTA, GEORGIA CHAPTER. The attendance was over 3,000 at our new Civic Center in Atlanta. Mr. Ford was most generous with his time, spending four days before the lecture giving guidance through workshops and to small group meetings. Needless to say, we are very grateful and proud to have had the opportunity to work with Arthur Ford.

Your Jo Kimmel, who spoke at our February meeting, was also most impressive. We found her most gracious, charming, and enlightening. Her workshops were received by all with gratitude and love. --Jean Bowles, Sec.

In LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA, Arthur Ford, co-founder of Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship, was the luncheon speaker at Franklin and Marshall College on Sunday, April 20. His topic was "The Drama of Life After Death."

The Sunday Luncheon series, which began February 2 and has been held every Sunday subsequently, has been established by the college to supplement the regular Sunday

services which had been rejected by many students. --Dorothy M. Forney

THE AUGUSTA, GEORGIA CHAPTER was organized on January 13 and has been growing steadily. We now have four Study Groups meeting.

Approximately 50 people were present on Friday, April 25 at St. Alban's Episcopal Church to hear the Reverend Barbara Selwa speak. The Reverend Selwa is an ordained Spiritualist minister and is studying for her Master's degree in psychology at the University of Georgia.

We have decided to have "public" meetings monthly. In May Ed Fooshe of the Atlanta chapter will speak on the use of hypnosis in psychic research.

In the summer we hope to have Mrs. Selwa back and Fr. Peter Calhoun from Atlanta, who holds regular healing services at his church.

One of our members has purchased a tape recorder for us to use.

Mrs. Jane Hudson, Chairman, has been asked to address the women's organization of her church about SFF at their May meeting.

--Jane Hudson, Chairman

During April, Col. James Cope Crosson, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA Chairman, spoke on "Creative Inspiration and E. S. P." at the First Congregational Church in Daytona Beach.

On May 11th, Daytona Beach members met at the home of Col. and Mrs. Crosson to review Eileen Garrett's book, Telepathy.

The Reverend Howard Carey of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, former Los Angeles Area Chairman and new member of the Executive Council, is now leading four study and meditation groups.

SFF LIBRARY

Mrs. Helen Reep has given the SFF Library a copy of The Symphony of Life by Donald Hatch Andrews. Complimentary copies from publishers recently received are The Chiropractic Story by Marcus Bach and Futurecaster: The Secrets of Foretelling Your Own Future by Maurice Woodruff.

DOREN E. TRUMP of Oak Lawn, Ill., died Friday, April 18, 1969. He was a charter member of SFF, our first treasurer, for several years a member of the Executive Council and at the time of his death a member of the Finance Committee.

S.F.F. Study Series: THE PARANORMAL IN THE BIBLE
Lesson 5 -- May 1969

Subject: VISIONS AND DREAMS

--Prepared by W. Archie Matson

I. Definition:

This lesson deals with guidance, instruction, and/or warnings given in dreams and visions which are interpreted as being from divine source. Various words are used, including trance, interchangeably. Sometimes God or an angel is simply reported as appearing and speaking. These are given as either auditory or visionary, sometimes both.

Related subjects which are considered only incidentally in this lesson are the ministry of angels, apocalyptic literature such as Daniel and Revelation, prophetic books with their "thus saith the Lord," mediumship and precognition in general.

II. Biblical references:

- a) Genesis has scores of stories of God appearing, visions, angels, and dreams. Examples of each in that order will be found in 8:15-17, 15:1-7, 19:1-3, and 37:5-9.
- b) Examples of God's call in dreams or visions are found in Exodus 3, I Samuel 3, Isaiah 6:1-10, Jeremiah 1:4-10, and Ezekiel 1-3. Warnings against false dreams and visions are in Deut. 13:1-5, Jeremiah 23:23-32, and I John 4:1. See II Kings 6:17, 20 and Matthew 27:19 for samples of warning dreams or visions.
- c) Matthew 1 and 2 tell of five dreams centered around the birth of Jesus, while Luke 1 and 2 contain three stories of angels. Jesus calls the Transfiguration a vision in Matthew 17:19, and the women describe the angels at the tomb in the same way in Luke 24:23.
- d) The early church depended much on dreams and visions as may be seen in Acts 7:55-57, 8:26, 9:10-12, 10:3 and 9-17, 16:9, 18:9-10, 25:11, and 27:23-24. Paul described his conversion as a vision in Acts 26:19 and told of another vision in II Corinthians 12:2-4.

III. Comments:

If this list is too long, although it is far from complete, choosing every third or fourth reference will give a fair sampling.

The first three books in the bibliography give a whole picture of the psychic element in the Bible, including dreams and visions. Most commentaries, such as THE INTERPRETER'S BIBLE, play it down.

Some of the great psychologists, such as Carl Jung and Wm. James, have made sympathetic studies of dreams. Much other related material will be found in F.W.H. Myers' HUMAN PERSONALITY AND ITS SURVIVAL OF BODILY DEATH (see index). Modern studies available in the SFF Library are listed in the bibliography.

Any study of dreams and visions in the Bible should be accompanied by a theory of the nature and structure of the personality by which they may be interpreted as having both validity and authority. Two excellent studies of this kind are one by Raynor Johnson and one that I have written. Both are in the SFF Library.

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IV. Suggestions for individual and/or group study:

(In individual study discuss with yourself by using pen and paper. In group study use the discussion method best suited to the group.)

a) What experiences have you personally had which are comparable to any of the stories in the Bible? Do you know of others among your friends? Have you read of others in current literature? --in the newspapers?

b) How does one know if a dream or vision is God-inspired? One test might be to ask how it jibes with what we know of the spirit and teachings of Jesus Christ or with common sense, especially when checked with trusted friends or a prayer group or with confirming facts as they develop in the case of warnings.

How about the "feel" of the dream experience? Biblical references reveal a sense of certainty. Yet, there is caution. Discuss.

c) Modern studies of dream psychology indicates that many experiences grow out of daily experiences, the deep unconscious, or emotional attitudes and often in symbolic forms. Could there be divine guidance in these?

d) When a voice is heard in a dream or vision speaking with great authority does this necessarily mean that God or an angel is speaking? Could it be only imaginary? Or even another spirit, either good or evil? Is this true for the scriptural stories as well as for our experiences today?

e) Many Biblical dreams and visions are prophetic and often in symbols. See books by Dunne and Myers for examples. Do you remember any of your own? Do these prove a divine inspiration--either today or in the Bible? Discuss.

f) Is there a distinction between "waking dreams" and visions? How do we distinguish between reverie and dreams, or do they shade into one another? Can there be an element of divine guidance in reverie? What, if any, is the difference in their authority?

g) Does this study of dreams and visions in the Bible alongside modern investigation and our personal experiences make the scriptures more vivid, more up-to-date, and of greater authority?

h) Studies of dreams in the light of modern psychology indicate that we dream every night, that we teach ourselves by self-suggestion, and that by keeping a notebook at our bedsides to record them in we can bring much more of this experience to the conscious level. Would we be wise to do this in order to get an insight into our own subconscious minds and to increase the likelihood of receiving guidance through them?

V. Bibliography: (All from the SFF Loan Library)

Edgar Cayce, Dreams (Based on his trance readings), 1963

E. Diamond, The Science of Dreams, 1963

J. W. Dunne, An Experiment With Time, 1939

Maurice Elliott, The Bible As Psychic History, 1959

Raynor Johnson, The Imprisoned Splendor, 1953

Maria Mahoney, The Meaning of Dreams and Dreaming

Archie Matson, From Mystery to Meaning, 1955

W. M. Peterson, Dreams, 1951

T. R. Powel, The Psychic Message of the Scriptures, 1954

Elsie Secrist, Dreams--Your Magic Mirror, 1968

Jane Sherwood, The Four Fold Vision, 1965

W. O. Stevens, The Mystery of Dreams, 1951

Sara Tooley, Psychic Phenomena in the Old Testament, 1957

W. Wolff, The Dream--The Mirror of Consciousness, 1952

CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND PSYCHISM

The Church of England press headquarters, in February this year, issued a bulletin titled "Spiritualism--the Christian View." The bulletin's author, Church of England assistant press officer, Mike Jacob, in an interview said the title should have been "A Christian View" but further stated concerning psychic research, "I am sympathetic and a lot of people are as well."

This bulletin, distributed nation-wide to clerics and parishioners and to 500 Anglican editors, states that, "Spiritualism and the supernatural have always been branded the province of a 'lunatic fringe' perhaps because the unknown tends to breed distrust. But convincing proof of the existence of other planes is readily available to those with open minds."

For the first time the church is officially and publicly in favor of spreading psychic knowledge and expresses a view which has been stifled by Anglican prelates for 30 years.

The report said: "It is legitimate for Christians who are scientifically qualified to make these matters a subject of scientific inquiry--important that representatives of the church should keep in touch with groups of intelligent persons who believe in Spiritualism."

This breakthrough would seem a great compliment to Lt. Col. Reginald Lester, chairman of the Churches' Fellowship for Psychical and Spiritual Studies, founded in 1954. It has been Lester's dream to see bishops and clergy

from all denominations unified in his organization.

The statement also is a landmark for two courageous British clerics, Dr. Mervyn Stockwood, Bishop of Southwark and the Fellowship's vice-president, and his diocese Vice-Provost, Canon J. D. Pearce-Higgins, the Fellowship's vice-chairman. Both these men have championed psychical research through the years in the face of public and ecclesiastical disapproval.

The bulletin makes recommendations of books to those who are interested in "spirit return through mediumship." The first book recommended is The Communion of Saints, by Canon W. S. Pakenham-Walsh. This examines Spiritualism in a biblical setting and discusses the Christian application of the subject.

The Dissolving Veil by Helen Greaves is considered to be "sympathetic, a moving record of the author's growing psychic powers which brought comfort to her and which she then used to comfort others." The bulletin states, "It casts much light on the life to come."

Referring to Rosamond Lehmann's, Swan in the Evening, the bulletin says the book "deals with the death and subsequent communication of her daughter Sally."

Anglicans are urged to cooperate with the Churches' Fellowship and surely this can mean only one thing: The Church of England has changed its mind about psychics.

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